

October 31, 2007

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U.S. Congressman

Mark Steven Kirk

Proudly serving the people of the 10th District of Illinois



**** U.S. Congressman Mark Steven Kirk, Proudly Serving the People of the 10th District of Illinois ****

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Dear Friends,

Tax day is just six months away. Leaders of the Illinois legislature, Cook County and Chicago are all pushing for no less than 18 separate tax increases on everything from retail sales to bottled water.

On top of this, the Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee recently unveiled a tax bill that the Wall Street Journal called the "[Trillion Dollar Baby](#)." While the bill provides relief for some, it raises the overall top tax rate from the Rostenkowski-Reagan rate of 34% to 44%. It also includes a large tax increase for small business employers.

In addition, the Chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee proposed a [new 50 cent per gallon gas tax and a new tax on all houses over 3,000 square feet](#).

I am inclined to vote against all of these new taxes. Our economy is not as strong as it should be, especially for home builders. Over 20 new local, state and federal taxes would threaten to send the Illinois economy into a recession. I worked to kill federal funding for the Alaskan Bridge-to-Nowhere, the sugar program and pushed for a line item veto to block future spending on wasteful programs.

What do you think? Please let me know with your vote on our issue survey below.

It is an honor to serve you in Congress.

Sincerely,

Mark Kirk
Member of Congress

Recently, leaders of the Illinois legislature, Cook County and Chicago proposed 18 separate tax increases. In addition, the Chairman of the House Ways & Means Committee and Energy & Commerce Committee proposed tax plans raising rates and taxes on gas and houses over 3,000 square feet.

Which of these Chicago tax increase proposals do you oppose? (\$292 million total)

☐ 15% property tax increase

- ☐ Higher water taxes
- ☐ Higher sewer taxes
- ☐ Higher phone taxes
- ☐ Higher beer taxes
- ☐ Higher wine taxes
- ☐ Higher liquor taxes
- ☐ Higher leased car taxes
- ☐ Higher office equipment taxes
- ☐ Higher parking taxes
- ☐ New 15-cent per-square-foot tax on new office space
- ☐ New \$120 annual tax on SUVs
- ☐ New 10-cent tax on bottled water

Do you oppose the Collar County sales tax increase proposal for Cook and Lake counties? (\$158 million total)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which of these Cook County tax increase proposals do you oppose? (\$888 million total)

- ☐ Triple sales taxes
- ☐ Double gas taxes
- ☐ Double parking taxes

Do you oppose the State of Illinois' new gross receipts tax (Delayed by the state legislature)? (\$7 billion total)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Which of these federal tax increase proposals do you oppose? (Tens of billions of dollars)

- ☐ Raise top tax rate from 34% to 44%
- ☐ Raise Social Security and Medicare taxes on small businesses (aka subchapter S small employers)
- ☐ New federal property tax against any home over 3,000 square feet

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